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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGUESE MOVES TOWARD ISRAEL BRING ARAB ENTREATIES

THE ARAB COUNTRIES, LED BY LIBYA AND EGYPT, ARE APPLYING PRESSURE AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS:

--SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL RUI MATEUS HAS RECEIVED ENTREATIES AND IMPLIED THREATS FROM THE ARABS.

--ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL YASSOUR HAS EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE INTENT OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS CLEAR.

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ONLY THE TIMING IS IN QUESTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5381;

5384, 8/9 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 5240, 8/4.)

2. MADRID: EC SI, NATO MAYBE

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED AUGUST 6, SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA SAID THAT HE SEES GREAT ADVANTAGES AND GREAT INCONVENIENCES IN NATO MEMBERSHIP AND THAT THE QUESTION IS BEING STUDIED CAREFULLY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OREJA REMINDS US THAT THERE IS STILL NO AGREED GOS POLICY ON THIS ISSUE, AND THERE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE UNTIL AFTER THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THIS CONTRASTS SPAIN'S STRONGLY HELD DETERMINATION TO PRESS FORWARD WITH EFFORTS TO GAIN ADMISSION TO THE EC. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 6106, 8/9.)

3. JAPAN: OPPOSITION TO MIKI BUILDS

PRIME MINISTER MIKI HAS ANNOUNCED ONCE AGAIN HIS INTENTION TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. AT THE SAME TIME FINANCE MINISTER OHIRA PUBLICLY JOINED WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IN CALLING FOR A "FRESH START" FOR THE LDP.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OHIRA'S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR HIS ARCH-RIVAL MARKED AN IMPORTANT NEW AND--FOR MIKI--OMINOUS STEP. HOW OR ON WHAT GROUNDS FUKUDA AND OHIRA WILL MOUNT THEIR CHALLENGE REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO SUCCEED BEFORE AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION IS CALLED. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 11951, 8/9.)

4. INDIA: ALL TALK BUT NO NEW ACTIONS

EMBASSY NEW DELHI REPORTS THE POLITICAL WIRES ARE HUMMING UNUSUALLY LOUDLY. AMONG FACTORS THE EMBASSY CITES AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GOSSIP:

--INCREASED ARRESTS IN BUJARAT, BIHAR AND THE PUNJAB;

--A COUNTRY-WIDE INCREASE IN LABOR UNREST AND TENSION;
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--A SPATE OF RUMORS, PROBABLY BASED ON SOME FACT, OF DISAFFECTION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND PRESIDENT AHMED; AND

--REPORTS OF A PLANNED FAST-TO-DEATH BY VINOBE BHAVE, ONE OF INDIA'S MOST RESPECTED "SAINTS."

EMBASSY COMMENT: AS THE EMERGENCY BECOMES ROUTINE, WHAT
ENTHUSIASM THERE WAS FOR IT HAS PROGRESSIVELY FADED, AND
CYNICISM AND APATHY HAVE BECOME MORE MARKED. NONETHELESS,
THE PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION REMAINS UNSHAKEN. (CONFI-
DENTIAL) NEW DELHI 11564, 8/6.) ROBINSON

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